



High-Level International
Conference on Glaciers'
Preservation

29-31 May, 2025
Dushanbe, Tajikistan

HIGH-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GLACIERS' PRESERVATION

29-31 May 2025, Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The melting of glaciers is one of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time. Climate change has already destroyed about one-third of mountain ice, and this will continue without serious mitigation consistent with the lower 1.5°C Paris Agreement limit. The *Hindu Kush Himalayan Assessment* predicts that the region could lose up to two-thirds of its glaciers by the end of the century. In Tajikistan, around 30% of glaciers have disappeared over the last century. The Vanj yakh (former Fedchenko) Glacier, the world's largest continental glacier, has retreated by over 1 km in the past 70–80 years and shrunk by 44 km². Brazil's Amazon, fed by Andean glaciers, is in severe drought and extreme events from rapid snowmelt, glacier outburst floods and landslides have hit countries from Germany to Peru to Nepal.

As glaciers shrink, they disrupt local and seasonal water supplies that billions of people depend on for drinking, irrigation, livelihoods, and energy production. This directly influences agricultural productivity, leading to food insecurity, especially in regions where glacier-fed rivers are vital for irrigation. Additionally, the loss of glaciers has devastating effects on hydropower generation, which many countries rely on. Reduced river water flow diminishes hydropower capacity, affecting energy security and economic development.

Economic inequalities in the face of glacier loss become more pronounced, particularly in developing regions where communities heavily depend on glacier-fed water resources. Vulnerable populations, often in mountainous or rural areas, experience worsened living conditions due to water scarcity, leading to increased poverty and migration. These changes are essentially irreversible for centuries to thousands of years.

The link between glaciers and climate change offers an opportunity to raise mitigation ambition at COP30, the thirtieth Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), at which Parties will renew their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for the next Paris commitment period. In the water context, 2025 marks the seventh year of implementation of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development" 2018–2028, including follow-up on the UN 2023 Water Conference outcomes. Raising awareness and promoting urgent emissions reductions to preserve glaciers is crucial. Even with urgent action, some adaptation will be required to cope with glacier loss. Greater focus should be placed on water adaptation, resilience, and early warning systems with reliable, disaggregated data, especially for developing countries.

The year 2025 also marks the beginning of the Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences, 2025–2034¹. Melting of large polar glaciers, as well as ice sheets in the Arctic and Antarctica is also growing. Rapid ice loss is raising global sea levels, with serious consequences for small island developing states and coastal areas, home to hundreds of millions of people. According to the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), even in the best-case scenario of limiting warming to 1.5°C, global sea levels will rise by at least 0.3 meters above 2000 levels by 2100. On our current emissions trajectory, levels may approach 2 meters, possibly higher if instabilities in West Antarctica kick into action.

¹ United Nations General Assembly Resolution 78/321, adopted on 14 August 2024

Flooding caused by rising sea levels displaces human communities, destroys ecosystems and farmland, reduces biodiversity, and limits the effectiveness of nature-based solutions. Many residents of small island developing states have already been forced to leave their homes due to flooding.

In December 2022, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2025 as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation² (IYGP), with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO) charged with co-facilitating associated activities. The Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences, adopted in August 2024 aims to address the challenges of the cryosphere (glaciers, ice sheets, snowpack, permafrost, and sea ice) through scientific research and monitoring.³ These initiatives aim to address glacier and cryosphere preservation through enhanced climate ambition, research and monitoring, and mobilizing financial resources while strengthening cooperation and partnerships at all levels.

Recognizing the pressing urgency of these climate issues and their profound socio-economic implications, the High-Level International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation will be convened in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan to highlight the vital role of glaciers in maintaining water resources.

This high-level event will spotlight the crucial connection between glaciers and sustainable socio-economic development, focusing on how glacier preservation is essential to safeguarding livelihoods, improving water availability, minimizing related hazards, recognizing the importance of Indigenous Peoples and knowledge, addressing gender inequalities and achieving long-term development goals for vulnerable regions and populations. Glacier preservation requires urgent climate ambition while increasing climate resilience and sustainability. This event aims to raise awareness and advocate for collective actions.

Objectives

The High-Level International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation aims to anchor the importance of glaciers and the urgency of stopping the accelerated melting, calving and retreating of glaciers on the Global Agenda, and advance global efforts in addressing glacier melt and its wide-ranging impacts through collaborative action, scientific innovation, and policy alignment. The Conference will support the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation 2025 by mobilizing resources and fostering international cooperation. It seeks to strengthen global partnerships among governments, scientists, civil society, and other stakeholders, with a focus on enhancing transboundary collaboration to preserve glaciers and their socio-economic benefits.

The High-Level International Conference on Glaciers will present a unique opportunity and will capitalize on momentum by contributing to the sequence of multilateral / global events and meetings, such as the 2025 UN Ocean Conference (France, June 2025), 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (Spain, June 2025), High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (New York, July 2025), UNFCCC COP30 (Brazil, November 2025, a key COP with renewal of Paris Agreement NDCs for the next commitment period) and the preparatory meetings for the 2026 UN Water Conference co-hosted by UAE and Senegal. The *Dushanbe Glaciers High-Level Declaration* will inform these forthcoming multilateral events, in particular climate ambition linked to COP30 in Brazil, and link the importance of glaciers writ large to the global sustainable development, environment and climate agendas.

Key additional objectives include advancing scientific research and monitoring to better understand glacier dynamics, addressing the socio-economic consequences of glacier retreat, and promoting integrated adaptation strategies such as early warning systems and disaster risk reduction. By raising the need for glacier preservation, the Conference aims to align glacier preservation efforts with global goals for water availability, energy, and food security. It will also raise awareness, mobilize resources, and leverage frameworks like The Pact for the Future, adopted at the Summit of the Future on 22 September 2024⁴ and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁵ to inspire transformative action, ensuring the resilience and sustainability of glacier-dependent communities and ecosystems.

² United Nations General Assembly Resolution 77/158, adopted on 14 December 2022

³ [United Nations adopts resolution to establish the Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences, 2025–2034](#)

⁴ United Nations General Assembly Resolution 79/1, adopted on 22 September 2024

⁵ United Nations General Assembly Resolution 70/1, adopted on 25 September 2015

In particular, the Conference will focus on:

— *Making Clear the Need for Greater Climate Ambition to Preserve Glaciers.* The only real means to preserve global glaciers is for a course-correction at COP30 towards 1.5C pathways. Even at 1.5C, many glaciers will disappear, including in Tajikistan and High Mountain Asia; but current pledges will lead to about 2.5C, devastating glaciers and the communities that depend on glaciers and snowpack for reliable water supplies.

— *Promoting Scientific Research and Monitoring.* To advance glacier, polar ice and high mountain cryosphere science including Indigenous knowledge, technological innovations, and monitoring systems aimed at understanding the dynamics of glacier retreat and its impacts on ecosystems, water resources, and the global climate system.

— *Addressing Socio-Economic Impacts of Glacier Melting.* To examine the downstream socio-economic consequences of glacier retreat, including its effects on water availability, food security, hydropower, livelihoods, cultural and natural heritage and sea-level rise. The Conference will explore actionable solutions to mitigate these impacts and build resilience in glacier-dependent communities.

— *Enhancing Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategies.* To promote integrated approaches for adaptation and mitigation, including early warning systems, disaster risk reduction, and infrastructure solutions to manage water resources and prevent glacial hazards. The Conference will prioritize strategies that enhance community resilience, especially in vulnerable regions.

— *Raising Awareness and Mobilizing Resources.* To increase global awareness of the importance of glacier preservation for ecological balance and socio-economic stability. The Conference will seek to mobilize financial and technical resources to support glacier preservation initiatives and ensure the dissemination of best practices and transformative climate solutions.

— *Linking Water, Biodiversity, Desertification and Climate Agendas for Sustainable Development.* To highlight the interconnection between water and climate agendas and explore opportunities to integrate glacier preservation into broader efforts to address global water availability, energy, and food security challenges. The Conference will encourage the alignment of glacier preservation initiatives with long-term development goals and to address climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss.

— *Catalyzing Actions through Key Frameworks and Partnerships.* To leverage key global frameworks, such as the 2030 Agenda and Pact for the Future, and strengthen partnerships across stakeholders to promote transformative action to preserve glaciers through urgent climate ambition, as well as create pathways for collective adaptation to effects of glacier melt on local ecosystems and human well-being.

Outcomes

The High-Level International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation will culminate in the following key outcome documents:

The Dushanbe Glaciers High-Level Declaration with a call to actionable commitments, collaborative initiatives, and strategic recommendations to COP30 in Brazil and to implement the UN General Assembly resolution on the "International Year of Glaciers' Preservation 2025." This Declaration will serve as a global call to action to prevent glacier melt and address its wide-ranging impacts. It will also urge greater financing from multilateral development banks, the private sector, bilateral donors, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders to announce pledges in support of glacier-related needs, and by joining Tajikistan's contribution to the IYGP Trust Fund coordinated by the Secretary-General to support glaciers' preservation activities.

The Chair's Summary will consolidate key messages, discussions, insights, and findings from the sessions, forums, providing a roadmap for advancing scientific research, promoting policy measures and sustainable funding, and fostering international cooperation for glacier preservation.

The Dushanbe Appeal will consolidate all inputs from Plenary Statements, Forums and Thematic Sessions in an integrated document available on the Conference web page.

These outcomes will be presented at appropriate venues in the course of 2025, such as the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), UNGA Climate Week and COP30.

Format and Participation Modalities

The Conference will adopt a multi-stakeholder approach, bringing together high-level officials and other representatives from UN Member States, UN entities, international organizations, financial institutions, the private sector, academia, civil society, local governments, and communities.

Preliminary Programme

The Conference programme includes opening and closing ceremonies, Plenary sessions, Leaders' Round Tables, Pre-Conference Forums, and Thematic Sessions focusing on glaciers in relation to climate change mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage; research and monitoring needs, and solutions for mitigation, resilience and adaptation planning. The Pre-Conference Day (29 May) will include Forums, Side Events, and cultural activities, providing diverse opportunities for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and engagement.

Plenary Sessions

Plenary sessions will provide an opportunity for the Heads of Delegation to make political statements. Guidelines to make statements consistent with the UN General Assembly resolution on the “International Year of Glaciers’ Preservation 2025” and as interested, the “Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences, 2025–2034” will be provided to Heads of Delegations through diplomatic channels, as appropriate. Time permitting, UN Observer Organizations will also be offered Plenary speaking slots; written statements (even if not delivered) will also be compiled and included in the comprehensive Dushanbe Appeal.

Leaders’ Round Tables

Leaders' Round Tables will take place on 30 May in a designated area identified by the Government of Tajikistan with ticketed admission for individual sessions. The Leaders' Round Tables will focus on Ambition Towards COP30 and Adaptation for both Glacier/Mountains and Downstream nations from the impacts of glacier melt, including extreme events such as flooding, drought with glacial loss, and sea-level rise.

Thematic Sessions

The Conference will include Thematic Sessions on the following four thematic areas over the two conference days:

1. Socio-economic Impacts of Glacier Melt
2. Cross-Cutting Issues: Biodiversity, Cultural and Natural Heritage, Transboundary Cooperation
3. Glacier Research and Monitoring
4. Solutions: Achieving Resilience through Adaptation and Mitigation

The Thematic Sessions are co-organized by partners including Member States, United Nations funds, agencies and programmes, international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, bilateral development partners, and private sector, as well as academia and non-governmental organizations. The Terms of Reference for the Thematic Sessions will be prepared by the Conference Secretariat. As a general rule, each Session will be co-organized by at least two partners.

The outcomes of the Thematic Sessions will be presented at the Closing Plenary by the rapporteurs of each session. They will also be reflected in the Chair's Summary and the Dushanbe Appeal of the High-Level International Conference on Glaciers’ Preservation.

Pre-Conference Forums and Side Events

The Conference will provide opportunities for interested delegations to organize Pre-Conference Forums, as well as Side Events on relevant issues on 29 May. These may be wide-ranging but will be subject to approval by the Secretariat based on consistency with the overall goals of the Conference. Participants are free to organize such events at outside venues on their own initiative. The Terms of Reference for the Forums and Side Events will be prepared by the Conference Secretariat and will be available on the website of the Conference.

For example, Forums or Side Events may be structured around the following global agendas:

- Rio-Trio Agenda (Climate, Biodiversity and Desertification) plus Ramsar Convention
- Finance for Development
- UNFCCC COP30
- 2026 UN Water Conference and 2028 UN Water Conference
- Children's Health and Education
- UN Ocean Conference

Organizers

The High-Level International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation is organized in Dushanbe by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan with the support of the United Nations, in particular UNESCO and WMO, the Asian Development Bank and other partners. The ultimate responsibility for the preparation of the Conference rests with the National Organizing Committee established by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan under the leadership of the Prime Minister, with a Conference Secretariat reporting to the Committee.

Dates and venue

The Conference will be held from 29 to 31 May 2025. Pre-Conference events, including Forums and Side Events will take place on 29 May. The official Conference programme will take place on 30 and 31 May in “Kokhi Somon”, Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan.

International Exhibition

An International Exhibition will be organized at the sidelines of the Conference. Partners interested in organizing their thematic booth shall contact the Secretariat for more information.

Field Trips

Participants will be invited to participate in a tour/field trip on 1 June, the day after the Conference to get acquainted with examples of glacier degradation, integrated water resources management and water-related sustainable development in Tajikistan.

Participants who plan to arrive before the Conference or stay longer and wish to visit other parts of Tajikistan are invited to contact the Secretariat for more information.

Languages

The working languages of the Conference are Tajik, English and Russian, with simultaneous translation provided. If Heads of Delegation wish to make a speech or presentation in another language, they are kindly asked to provide their own interpreter.

More information about the Conference is available at <https://dushanbeicgp2025.com> and <https://www.un-glaciers.org>.



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Practical information

The Conference is organized by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan in cooperation with the United Nations and other development partners and aims to highlight the importance of glaciers and the urgency of stopping the accelerated melting, calving and retreating of glaciers on the Global Agenda, and advance global efforts in addressing glacier melt and its wide-ranging impacts through collaborative action, scientific innovation, and policy alignment.

The Conference will support the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation 2025 by mobilizing resources and fostering international cooperation. It seeks to strengthen global partnerships among governments, scientists, civil society, and other stakeholders, with a focus on enhancing transboundary collaboration to preserve glaciers and their socio-economic benefits.

General coordination and Contact Information

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan:

Conference secretariat

Tel. (992 37) 227 68 43

Fax. (992 37) 221 02 59

Email: secretariatcgp2025@mfa.tj

Date and Venue

The Conference will be held from May 29 to 31 2025 in Dushanbe. The opening ceremony of the Conference will take place on May 30, 2025, at 09:00 in the state complex “Kokhi Somon”, located at the address: 122 Rudaki St., Dushanbe.

The Conference Forums will take place on May 29, 2025. The venues of the forums are indicated in the programs available on the Conference website at the link: [www. https://dushanbeicgp2025.com](http://www.https://dushanbeicgp2025.com)
Entry to the state complex “Kokhi Somon” and the venues of the Forums is allowed strictly upon presentation of badges issued by the Conference Secretariat.

Website

All the necessary information about the Conference is available on the web site [www. https://dushanbeicgp2025.com](http://www.https://dushanbeicgp2025.com)

Registration

Heads of State and Government of UN Member States, international and regional organizations, financial institutions, research and educational institutions, the private sector, NGOs and civil society, river and lake basin organizations, women's, youth and children's organizations are invited to attend the Conference.

Official delegations must register on the Conference website by filling out a form indicating the name/position of their delegates (official, accompanying, press, security), detailed information about the route, flight, arrival/departure time, as well as a personal photo (size 3×4). This information should also be duplicated through diplomatic channels by sending the appropriate diplomatic note to secretariatcgp2025@mfa.tj and protocol@mfa.tj

Based on the information received, the organizers of the Conference will book a suitable hotel for official delegations based on hospitality format, arrange airport pickup and prepare badges.

The registration deadline is **May 10, 2025, at 12:00 UTC**.



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Visa Support

To travel to Tajikistan, participants are required to obtain a visa, unless they are citizens of those countries that have bilateral and multilateral agreements with Tajikistan permitting visa-free entry.

If a visa is required, the Conference Secretariat will provide participants with a Visa Support Letter upon request. In such cases, participants must complete the Questionnaire on the website www.visa.gov.tj. Citizens of certain countries can obtain a visa upon arrival at Dushanbe International Airport.

Citizens of all other countries must obtain a visa from the Embassy or Consular section of the Republic of Tajikistan abroad before their departure. Visas for participants of the Conference are issued free of charge. However, participants from certain countries who are eligible for visa free entry and granted visa on arrival but wish to have an electronic visa (e-visa) prior to departure,[3] are required to pay the cost of an electronic visa (30 US dollars). To obtain it participants need to apply via website www.evisa.tj.

Hospitality

According to the level of participation of delegations, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan will provide hospitality (accommodation, meals and local transport) in the following format:

- Head of State – 1+4
- Prime Minister / UN Secretary General – 1+3
- Vice Prime Minister – 1+2
- Minister // Deputy Secretary General of the UN – 1+1
- Head of international organizations, including international financial institutions – 1
- Other heads of official delegations – 1
- Members of the International Advisory Committee – 1

International calls, faxes, dry cleaning, mini-bar and other services are to be paid by the participants themselves.

Invited guests within the specified dates (29 -31 May 2025) will be provided with the free accommodation during their official stay in Tajikistan. However, any hotel expenses before or after the official days of stay must be covered by the delegation themselves.

Arrival and departure

To obtain permission through diplomatic channels to use the airspace of the Republic of Tajikistan and land at Dushanbe International Airport, you must send a note with a completed application (<https://mfa.tj/en/main/view/2087/state-protocol>) to the State Protocol Department of the Ministry Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan protocol@mfa.tj

High-ranking guests and persons accompanying them will be met by the organizers at the CIP and VIP - halls of Dushanbe International Airport.

Security questions

When a protected person guarded official is escorted by security officers of a foreign state with firearms, the diplomatic mission sends an official note to the State Protocol Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (protocol@mfa.tj) with a request to ensure the security of the guarded official and to obtain a permit for the import, carrying and export of weapons by security officers of a foreign state no later than ten working days before the visit.



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Employees of foreign security services who arrive with weapons must always have with them a permit issued to them to import (export) and carry weapons on the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Media Accreditation

Foreign journalists, including personal press representatives of the heads of delegations, must obtain accreditation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan in order to cover the Conference.

To do this, it is required to send information to the email address of the Information and Press Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan (pressaccreditation@mfa.tj) by **May 10, 2025**.

The admission of media representatives to official events will be carried out according to the list and a valid identity document.

Accommodation

Delegations of participating countries and international organizations will be accommodated free of charge in the Government Residence (Dacha), as per the allocated format. Delegations can also be accommodated in nearby hotels.

Additional participants beyond the hospitality format may be accommodated in hotels in Dushanbe upon delegation's requests, in such case the Conference Secretariat can assist in arranging hotel reservations for participants.

Local transport

Transport will be organized for delegations upon arrival/departure from/to the airport. Shuttle buses will be provided to transport delegates from the hotels to the Conference venue and back to the hotels.

Language

The working languages of the Conference are Tajik, English and Russian, with simultaneous translation provided. If the head of delegation wishes to make a speech or presentation in another language, they will need to provide their own interpreter.

Speeches

Heads of official delegations are invited to speak (up to 5 minutes) at the plenary session of the High-Level Conference, which will be held on May 30 from 11:00 to 12:30 and continue on May 31 from 09:00 to 10:30.

The Organizing Committee would greatly appreciate speeches that align with the UN General Assembly resolution on the "International Year of Glaciers' Preservation 2025", as well as focus on ambition towards COP30, global climate change impacts to glaciers, financing and support, policy and action plans, and also addressing the "Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences, 2025–2034".

The Organizing Committee also invites speakers to make commitments or announcements regarding pledges to support glacier-related initiatives, including contributions to the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation Trust Fund, which is coordinated by the Secretary-General to support glaciers' preservation efforts.



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Potential speakers are requested to reply in advance to invitation to speak through diplomatic channels and to the following email address: secretariatcgp2025@mfa.tj.

Format of the Conference

The Conference will adopt a multi-stakeholder approach, bringing together high-level officials and other representatives from UN Member States, UN entities, international organizations, financial institutions, the private sector, academia, civil society, local governments, and communities.

The Conference will be held in person with limited possibility to connect online. Preference will be given to participants with a physical presence.

Cultural events

The Conference provides for various cultural events, where the participants will have a unique opportunity to explore the diverse forms of the ancient cultural heritage of the Tajik people. The event will showcase cultural and traditional aspects from all regions of Tajikistan, demonstrating the distinctiveness and uniqueness of its culture, traditions, customs, crafts, clothing, and performing arts.

The folk music groups from various corners and regions of Tajikistan will delight the guests of the event throughout the evening with spectacular and colorful performances. Additionally, participant of this cultural event will have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with Tajik national cuisine.

Field trips and excursions will take place on **June 1, 2025, starting at 09:00 a.m.**

Detailed information about these events is available on the Conference website: [www. https://dushanbeicgp2025.com](https://dushanbeicgp2025.com)

Bilateral meetings

A limited number of rooms will be available upon request for official delegation bilateral meetings at the Conference venue "Kokhi Somon" and they will be allocated based on the order of applications receipt.

Exhibitions

Conference participants can visit the exhibition on the topic related to glaciers organized on the sidelines of the Conference in the state complex "Kokhi Somon".

Accompanying persons

Each official delegation will be assigned accompanying individuals who will provide assistance to the delegations throughout their stay in Tajikistan. The Secretariat will provide additional information including contact details and names of the accompanying individuals.

Medical services

In the Conference venue and hotels provided by the organizers, the participants will be provided with first aid, if necessary.

Currency exchange

The official currency in Tajikistan is Somoni. Information regarding exchange rates is available on the website of the National Bank (www.nbt.tj). Currency exchange facilities are available in banks, hotels and at the airport. ATMs can be found in most banks, hotels and shopping malls.



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Weather

The climate in Dushanbe is continental subtropical, with dry and hot summers. In May - June, during daytime, the air usually warms up to 25-35o C.

The local time

Dushanbe is located on the GMT+5 time zone.

Airlines

Regular international flights are carried out to and from Dushanbe International Airport from and to the following major cities: Almaty, Dubai, Istanbul, Jeddah, München, Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Tehran, Mashhad, New Delhi, Kuwait, Baku, Urumqi, Tashkent etc. More detailed information on international flights is available on the website of the Dushanbe International Airport at : <http://airport.tj/into/en/>.

Air transportation is carried out by both national and international carriers.



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FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

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ORGANIZERS



The High-Level International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation is the premiere event of the United Nations-declared International Year of Glaciers' Preservation, 2025¹. The Conference is organized in Dushanbe by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan with the support of the United Nations, in particular UNESCO and WMO, the Asian Development Bank and other partners.



The ultimate responsibility for the preparation of the Conference rests with the National Organizing Committee established by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan under the leadership of the Prime Minister, with a Conference Secretariat reporting to the Committee.

SECRETARIAT

Phone: +992 (37) 227-68-43

E-mail: secretariaticgp2025@mfa.tj

¹ United Nations General Assembly Resolution 77/158, adopted on 14 December 2022



BACKGROUND

The melting of glaciers is one of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time. Climate change has already destroyed about one-third of mountain ice, and this will continue without serious mitigation consistent with the lower 1.5°C Paris Agreement limit.

As glaciers shrink, they disrupt local and seasonal water supplies that billions of people depend on for drinking, irrigation, livelihoods, and energy production. This directly influences agricultural productivity, leading to food insecurity, especially in regions where glacier-fed rivers are vital for irrigation. Additionally, the loss of glaciers has devastating effects on hydropower generation, which many countries rely on. Reduced river water flow diminishes hydropower capacity, affecting energy security and economic development.

Economic inequalities in the face of glacier loss become more pronounced, particularly in developing regions where communities heavily depend on glacier-fed water resources. Vulnerable populations, often in mountainous or rural areas, experience worsened living conditions due to water scarcity, leading to increased poverty and migration. These changes are essentially irreversible for centuries to thousands of years.

The link between glaciers and climate change offers an opportunity to raise mitigation ambition at COP30, the 30th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), at which Parties will renew their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for the next Paris commitment period. Even with urgent action however, some adaptation will be required to cope with glacier loss. Focus should be placed on water adaptation, resilience, and early warning systems with reliable, disaggregated data, especially for developing countries.



The year 2025 also marks the beginning of the United Nations-declared Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences, 2025–2034.² Melting of large polar glaciers, as well as ice sheets in the Arctic and Antarctica is also growing. This rapid ice loss is raising global sea levels, with serious consequences for small island developing states and coastal areas, home to hundreds of millions of people. Flooding caused by rising sea levels displaces human communities, destroys ecosystems and farmland, reduces biodiversity, and limits the effectiveness of nature-based solutions. Many residents of small island developing states have already been forced to leave their homes due to flooding.

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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF GLACIERS' PRESERVATION

In December 2022, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2025 as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation³ (IYGP) with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO) charged with co-facilitating associated activities. The Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences, 2025-2034, adopted by the United Nations in August 2024, aims to address the challenges of cryosphere (glaciers, ice sheets, snowpack, permafrost, and sea ice) through scientific research and monitoring. Together, these initiatives aim to address glacier and cryosphere preservation through enhanced climate ambition, research and monitoring, and mobilizing financial resources while strengthening cooperation and partnerships at all levels.

Recognizing the pressing urgency of these climate issues and their profound socio-economic implications, the High-Level International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation will be convened in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan to highlight the vital role of glaciers in maintaining vital water resources.

This High-Level event will spotlight the crucial connection between glaciers and sustainable socio-economic development, focusing on how glacier preservation is essential to safeguarding livelihoods, improving water availability, minimizing related hazards, recognizing the importance of Indigenous Peoples and knowledge, addressing gender inequalities and achieving long-term development goals for vulnerable regions and populations. Glacier preservation requires urgent climate ambition while increasing climate resilience and sustainability. This event aims to raise awareness and advocate for collective actions.



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OBJECTIVES

The High-Level International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation aims to anchor the importance of glaciers and the urgency of stopping the accelerated melting, calving and retreating of glaciers on the Global Agenda, and advance global efforts in addressing glacier melt and its wide-ranging impacts through collaborative action, scientific innovation, and policy alignment. The Conference will support the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation 2025 by mobilizing resources and fostering international cooperation. It seeks to strengthen global partnerships among governments, scientists, civil society, and other stakeholders, with a focus on enhancing transboundary collaboration to preserve glaciers and their socio-economic benefits.

The High-Level International Conference on Glaciers Preservation will present a unique opportunity and will capitalize on momentum by contributing to the sequence of multilateral / global events and meetings, such as the 2025 UN Ocean Conference (France, June 2025), 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (Spain, June 2025), High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (New York, July 2025), Ramsar Convention on Wetlands COP15 (Zimbabwe, July 2025), UNFCCC COP30 (Brazil, November 2025, a key COP with renewal of Paris Agreement NDCs for the next commitment period) and the preparatory meetings for the UN 2026 Water Conference co-hosted by UAE and Senegal. The Dushanbe Glaciers High-Level Declaration will inform these forthcoming multilateral events, in particular climate ambition linked to COP30 in Brazil, and link the importance of glaciers writ large to the global sustainable development, environment and climate agendas.

Key additional objectives include advancing scientific research and monitoring to better understand glacier dynamics, addressing the socio-economic consequences of glacier retreat, and promoting integrated adaptation strategies such as early warning systems and disaster risk reduction. By raising the need for glacier preservation, the Conference aims to align glacier preservation efforts with global goals for water, energy, and food security. It will also raise awareness, mobilize resources, and leverage frameworks like The Pact for the Future, adopted at the Summit of the Future on 22 September 2024⁴ and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁵ to inspire transformative action, ensuring the resilience and sustainability of glacier-dependent communities and ecosystems.

In particular, the Conference will focus on:

- Making Clear the Need for Greater Climate Ambition to Preserve Glaciers;
- Promoting Scientific Research and Monitoring;
- Addressing Socio-Economic Impacts of Glacier Melt and Loss;
- Enhancing Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategies;
- Raising Awareness and Mobilizing Resources;
- Linking Water, Biodiversity, Desertification and Climate Agendas for Sustainable Development; and
- Catalyzing Actions through Key Frameworks and Partnerships.

⁴ United Nations General Assembly Resolution 79/1, adopted on 22 September 2024

⁵ United Nations General Assembly Resolution 70/1, adopted on 25 September 2015



OUTCOMES

The High-Level International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation will culminate in the following key outcome documents:

The Dushanbe High-Level Declaration with a call to actionable commitments, collaborative initiatives, and strategic recommendations to COP30 in Brazil and to implement the UN General Assembly resolution on the "International Year of Glaciers' Preservation 2025." This Declaration will serve as a global call to action to prevent glacier melt and address its wide-ranging impacts. It will also urge greater financing from multilateral development banks, the private sector, bilateral donors, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders to announce pledges in support of glacier-related needs, and by joining Tajikistan's contribution to the IYGP Trust Fund coordinated by the Secretary-General to support glaciers' preservation activities.

The Chair's Summary will consolidate key messages, discussions, insights, and findings from the sessions, forums, providing a roadmap for advancing scientific research, promoting policy measures and sustainable funding, and fostering international cooperation for glacier preservation.

The Dushanbe Appeal will consolidate all inputs from Plenary Statements, Forums and Thematic Sessions in an integrated document available on the Conference web page.

These outcomes will be presented at appropriate venues in the course of 2025, such as the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), UNGA Climate Week and COP30.

FORMAT AND PARTICIPATION

The Conference will adopt a multi-stakeholder approach, bringing together High-Level officials and other representatives from UN Member States, UN entities, international organizations, financial institutions, the private sector, academia, civil society, local governments, and communities.

DATES AND VENUE

The Conference will be held from 29 to 31 May 2025. Pre-Conference events, including Forums and Side Events will take place on 29 May. The official Conference programme will take place on 30-31 May in "Kokhi Somon", Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan.

REGISTRATION

In order to ensure safety and timely resolution of logistical issues, and to avoid false registrations, a registration fee has been introduced for participation in the High-Level International Conference on Glacier Preservation.

The registration fee is 100 US\$. Participants who are unable to pay the registration fee may contact the Conference Secretariat by e-mail: secretariatcgp2025@mfa.tj. The Secretariat will consider the possibility of free registration for such participants, in case of a positive decision a special link for **free registration** will be sent to them within 10 days.

There is no registration fee for members of official delegations that are invited on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, as well as members of the International Advisory Board and their alternates. A special link will be sent to them via official channels, following which they will be directed to the free registration page.

Citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan are also exempt from the registration fee and shall receive a registration confirmation from the Conference Secretariat.

In addition, there is no registration fee for representatives of the media. Registration of media representatives will be carried out based on their request and upon receiving confirmation from the Information and Press Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan

Online registration is available on the website of the conference: <https://dushanbeicgp2025.com>.

The registration deadline is 10 May 2025.

LANGUAGES

The working languages of the Conference are Tajik, English and Russian, with simultaneous translation provided.



PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

The Conference programme includes opening and closing ceremonies, Plenary sessions, Leaders' Round Tables, Pre-Conference Forums, and Thematic Sessions focusing on glaciers in relation to climate change mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage; research and monitoring needs, and solutions for mitigation, resilience and adaptation planning. The Pre-Conference Day (29 May) will include Forums, Side Events, and cultural activities, providing diverse opportunities for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and engagement.

PLENARY SESSIONS

Plenary sessions will provide an opportunity for the Heads of Delegation to make political statements. Guidelines to make statements consistent with the UN General Assembly resolution on the "International Year of Glaciers' Preservation 2025" and as interested, the "Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences, 2025–2034" will be provided to Heads of Delegations through diplomatic channels, as appropriate. Time permitting, UN Observer Organizations will also be offered Plenary speaking slots; written statements (even if not delivered) will also be compiled and included in the comprehensive Dushanbe Appeal.

LEADERS' ROUND TABLES

Leaders' Round Tables will take place on May 30 in a designated area identified by the Government of Tajikistan with ticketed admission for individual sessions. The Leaders' Round Tables will focus on Ambition Towards COP30 and Adaptation for both Glacier/Mountains and Downstream nations from the impacts of glacier melt, including extreme events such as flooding, drought with glacial loss, and sea-level rise.

THEMATIC SESSIONS

The Conference will include Thematic Sessions on the following four thematic areas over the two conference days:

Socio-economic Impacts of Glacier Melt:

- Strategic Actions for Glacial Management to Support Small Island Developing States (TS1)
- Glaciers and Water Availability in a Changing Climate: From Glaciers to Sea (TS2)
- Glacial Hazards and Disaster Risk Reduction: "Early Warnings for All" (TS3)

Cross-cutting issues: Biodiversity, Cultural Heritage, Transboundary Cooperation:

- Partnership for Climate Change, Glaciers and Transboundary Cooperation in Central and West Asia Region (TS4)
- Global Initiatives for Glacier Ecosystem Conservation and Adaptation (TS5)
- Bridging Indigenous Knowledge, Heritage and Community Action for Glacier Preservation (TS6)

Glacier Science, Research and Monitoring:

- Glacier Monitoring Needs Worldwide (TS7)
- Glacier Projections and Emissions: How much can 1.5C Pathways Save? (TS8)
- Latest Glacier Science: focus on Early Career Researchers (TS9)

Solutions: Achieving Resilience through Adaptation and Mitigation:

- Pact for the Future: How the Pact Can Inform Glacier Preservation. (TS10)
- Climate Finance and Investment for Glacier Preservation and Adaptation (TS11)
- Zero-Carbon Development: A Path Forward for Glacier Nations (TS12)

The outcomes of the Thematic Sessions will be presented at the Closing Plenary by the rapporteurs of each session and also be reflected in the Chair's Summary and the Dushanbe Appeal.



PRE-CONFERENCE FORUMS AND SIDE EVENTS

The Conference will provide opportunities for interested delegations to organize Pre-Conference Forums, as well as Side Events on relevant issues on May 29. These may be on a wide-range of topics but will be subject to approval by the Secretariat based on consistency with the overall goals of the Conference.

Participants are free to organize such events at outside venues on their own initiative. The Terms of Reference for the Forums and Side Events will be prepared by the Conference Secretariat and will be available on the website of the Conference. More information about side events is available at: <https://dushanbeicgp2025.com/events/side-events/>

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

An International Exhibition will be organized at the sidelines of the Conference. Partners interested in organizing their thematic booth shall visit the Conference website at: <https://dushanbeicgp2025.com/exhibition/> or contact the Conference Secretariat for more information.

FIELD TRIPS

Participants will be invited to participate in a tour/field trip on June 1, the day after the Conference to get acquainted with examples of glacier degradation, integrated water resources management and water-related sustainable development in Tajikistan. Registration for the tour/field trip will be available on the Conference website at: <https://dushanbeicgp2025.com/tours/>

Participants who plan to arrive before the Conference or stay longer and wish to visit other parts of Tajikistan are invited to contact the Secretariat for more information.



ABOUT TAJIKISTAN

Tajikistan, located in Central Asia, shares borders with Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan to the west and north, Afghanistan to the south, and China to the east. The country spans a total area of 142,600 km². Tajikistan is characterized by its mountainous terrain, with elevations ranging from 300 to 7,495 meters. Mountains cover 93% of the country's land. The majority of Tajikistan's population and economic activities are concentrated in the remaining 7% of the territory, which consists of valleys. Tajikistan is home to the highest peak in Central Asia and Europe, peak Ismoil Somoni, which rises to 7,495 meters, as well as one of the largest continental glaciers in the world, the Vanj-Yakh Glacier (formerly known as the Fedchenko Glacier).

As of January 1, 2024, Tajikistan's population is estimated to be 10,3 million people. Of this population, 26.4% reside in urban areas, while 73.6% live in rural areas. The average annual population growth rate is approximately 2.5%.

In terms of water resources, Tajikistan ranks first among Central Asian countries. More than 80% of the Amu Darya river flow and 1% of the Syr Darya river flow originate within Tajikistan's borders. In total, Tajikistan contributes 64 km³ per year or approximately 60% of the water resources in the Aral Sea basin.

Despite having very small oil and gas reserves and facing challenges in industrializing coal deposits, Tajikistan boasts vast and inexhaustible reserves of hydropower resources. Expert estimates suggest that these reserves amount to approximately 527 billion kWh of electricity annually. This potential is 2,5 times greater than the current electricity consumption of the entire Central Asian region. By effectively harnessing this potential, the region can benefit from affordable and environmentally friendly electricity.





<https://dushanbeicqp2025.com/>



<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61573516094918>



<https://www.instagram.com/glaciersconference/>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/glaciers-conference/>



<https://x.com/Glaciers2025>





High-Level International
Conference on Glaciers'
Preservation

29-31 May, 2025
Dushanbe, Tajikistan

HIGH-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GLACIERS' PRESERVATION

29-31 May 2025, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

29 MAY 2025

09:00 – 12:00	Pre-Conference Forums and Side Events		
	Forum 1 Agriculture in a Time of Glacier Loss: Addressing droughts, flooding with carbon sequestration and resilience in glacier-dependent regions	Forum 2 Impacts of Glacier Loss on Children's Health and Education	Forum 3 Regional Forum on Glaciers and Cryosphere in Central Asia
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>		
14:00-17:00	Forum 4 Natural Capital	Forum 5 From IYGP to Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences (2025-2034)	Forum 6 Ministerial Dialogue on Climate Resilience, Glacier Preservation, and Water Governance through Networking and Partnership
18:00 – 20:00	Cultural Events		

30 MAY 2025

09:00 – 10:30	Opening Session		
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee & Networking Break</i>		
11:00 – 12:30	Plenary Session I: Head of Delegation Statements		
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>		
14:00–15:30	<i>Socio-economic Impacts of Glacier Melt</i>		
	TS1: Glaciers, Polar ice sheets and the Threat of Sea level Rise: Strategies in support of Small Island Developing States	TS2: Glaciers and Water Availability in a Changing Climate: From Glaciers to Sea	TS3: Glacial Hazards and Disaster Risk Reduction: “Early Warnings for All”
15:30 – 16:30	<i>Coffee & Networking Break</i>		

Leaders' Round Table
(by invitation only)

16:00 – 17:30	<i>Cross-cutting Issues: Biodiversity, Cultural and Natural Heritage, Transboundary Cooperation</i>			
	TS4: Partnership for Climate Change, Glaciers and Transboundary Cooperation in Central and West Asia Region	TS5: Global Initiatives for Glacier Ecosystem Conservation and Adaptation	TS6: Bridging Indigenous Knowledge, Heritage and Community Action for Glacier Preservation	Leaders’ Round Table (by invitation only)
19:00 – 21:00	Reception hosted by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan			
31 MAY 2025				
09:00 – 10:30	Plenary Session 2 (Continuation): Head of Delegation Statements			
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee & Networking Break			
11:00 – 12:30	<i>Glacier Science, Research and Monitoring</i>			
	TS7: Glacier Monitoring Needs Worldwide	TS8: Glacier Projections and Emissions: How much can 1.5C Pathways Save?	TS9: Latest Glacier Science: focus on Early Career Researchers	
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch			
14:00 – 15:30	<i>Solutions: Achieving Resilience through Adaptation and Mitigation</i>			
	TS10. Pact for the Future: How the Pact Can Inform Glacier Preservation	TS11: Climate Finance and Investment for Glacier Preservation and Adaptation	TS12: Zero-Carbon Development: A Path Forward for Glacier Nations	
15:30 – 16:30	Coffee & Networking Break			
16:30 – 17:30	Closing Session			
17:30 – 18:00	Press Conference			
1 JUNE 2025				
09:00 – 18:00	FIELD TRIPS TO GLACIERS / EXCURSIONS			

Note: This is a preliminary programme and is subject to change.